

That he did not overrate his success Murray himself furnishes testimony in a letter to Lockhart on the following day.

I have yesterday and to-day listened to Mr. Disraeli's admirable details of his conferences with you and Sir Walter, and I can now state with my whole heart that nothing could have proved more completely gratifying; it has put me into complete possession of your views and character, and I can only repeat what I told him. to say to you, *tjjat* after this, Heaven and Earth may pass away, but it cannot shake my opinion.<sup>1</sup>

It was probably at this time that Disraeli first began to feel that dislike of Croker which was to find memorable expression in *Coning&by*. In a letter to Murray he speaks, with obvious reference to Croker and Barrow, of 'the junta of ofncial scamps who have too long enslaved you.' To Lockhart he is even more explicit: —

I have often complained to you of Murray's inconsistency, vacillation, and indecision. I have done more, I have complained of them to himself. I regret it. Had I had any conception of the intriguing, selfish and narrow-minded officials by whom he has been so long surrounded, I certainly would have restrained my sentiments, and have pitied the noble and generous-minded being who was subjected to such disgusting thralldom. . . . It is impossible in a letter to give you any idea of the agitating and curious scenes which have taken place during these last days. The scales, however, have at length fallen from our friend's eyes, and the walls of the Admiralty have resounded to his firm and bold but gentlemanly tones. . . . Thank God I did not postpone my departure to town one other second!<sup>2</sup>

With the obscure intrigues to which this and other letters refer we are not much concerned. Lockhart came to London in the first week of December, and a fortnight later, at Disraeli's suggestion and with the approbation of all, the new paper was named *The Representative*. There, as far as Disraeli is involved, the story abruptly ends. In a letter to Lockhart on November 28 he alludes to 'the terrific agitation in which

<sup>1</sup> Scott's *Letters*, II., p. 414. <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, II., p. 413.